

Message Text

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SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEE BOAT BASES: APPROACHES TO
COUNTRIES OF FIRST ASYLUM

REF: (A) STATE 178333 (NOTAL); (B) WELLINGTON 3084 (NOTAL);
(C) KUALA LUMPUR 5120 (NOTAL)

1. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AUGUST 11 MADE A DETERMINATION TO
PAROLE INTO THE UNITED STATES 15,000 INDOCHINESE, INCLUDING
7000 BOAT CASE REFUGEES. HIS DETERMINATION SHOULD LIGHTEN
REFUGEE PRESSURES IN COUNTRIES OF FIRST ASYLUM. IT PRO-
VIDES THE BASIS FOR A RENEWED APPEAL TO EXTEND HOSPITALITY
TO BOAT CASE REFUGEES.

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2. THE PRESIDENT, KEY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, THE PRESS, AND
THE GENERAL PUBLIC HAVE EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN OVER THE
PLIGHT OF THE BOAT CASE REFUGEES. ACCOUNTS OF EXTENSIVE
SUFFERING AND LOSS OF LIFE REACHED A CRESCENDO IN JUNE AND
JULY. THEY CENTERED ON SHIPS AT SEA THAT PASSED UP REFU-
GEES IN DISTRESS, AND ON COUNTRIES AROUND THE PERIPHERY OF
THE SOUTH CHINA SEA THAT FORCED BOATS BACK OFFSHORE, OR RE-

FUSED TO ALLOW TO DEBARK IN THEIR PORTS THOSE REFUGEES THAT SHIPS HAD ALREADY RESCUED. THERE IS MUCH MORE DOMESTIC CONCERN OVER THE ISSUE THAN DURING THE 1976 REQUEST FOR THE EXPANDED PAROLE PROGRAM.

3. SOME COUNTRIES OF TRADITIONAL IMMIGRATION ARE CONTINUING OR EXPANDING THEIR EFFORTS. FRANCE HAS AVERAGED AN INTAKE OF ABOUT 1000 INDOCHINESE REFUGEES PER MONTH SINCE MAY 1975. AUSTRALIA HAS JUST ESTABLISHED A REFUGEE OFFICE IN BANGKOK AND, IN ADDITION TO THE SOME 3000 INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IT HAS ALREADY TAKEN IN, PLANS TO ADMIT 150 PER MONTH FOR AT LEAST A YEAR STARTING IN SEPTEMBER 1977. NEW ZEALAND ANNOUNCED JULY 26 THAT IT WOULD SHORTLY ACCEPT UP TO 70 FAMILIES, OR SOME 420 INDIVIDUALS (REF B). CANADA WHICH HAS ALREADY TAKEN IN SOME 7000, RECENTLY INFORMED THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES THAT IT WOULD ACCEPT 450 MORE. THE UNITED STATES, WHICH HAS ABOUT 146,000 IN COUNTRY, WILL TAKE 8000 FROM THAI CAMPS, IN ADDITION TO 7000 BOAT CASE REFUGEES. DENMARK JUST ANNOUNCED IN EARLY AUGUST THAT IT WOULD ACCEPT 50 BOAT CASES.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: CITING DATA IN PARAS 1-3, PLEASE APPROACH GOJ AT HIGHEST APPROPRIATE LEVEL TO ENCOURAGE GREATER JAPANESE EFFORTS IN BEHALF OF REFUGEES. WHILE RECOGNIZING THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS THAT WOULD MAKE PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT IN JAPAN DIFFICULT, YOU CAN STRONGLY ENCOURAGE THE GOJ TO ADOPT A CONSISTENTLY HOSPITABLE POLICY FOR GRANTING TEMPORARY ASYLUM TO FUTURE BOAT CASES. IN UNCLASSIFIED

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ADDITION, THE GOJ SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO CONTRIBUTE EVEN MORE GENEROUSLY IN THE FUTURE TO UNHCR REFUGEE PROGRAMS, AND TO JOIN US IN GIVING FINANCIAL SUPPORT SHOULD A PROGRAM DEVELOP FOR THE RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES IN THAILAND. YOU CAN POINT OUT THAT WORLD ATTENTION IS AGAIN FOCUSING ON THE PLIGHT OF INDOCHINA REFUGEES, AND THAT A CONSTRUCTIVE RESPONSE FROM JAPAN WILL NOT GO UNNOTICED. YOU CAN FURTHER ASSURE THE GOJ THAT WE EXPECT OUR NEW BOAT CASE PROGRAM, TOGETHER WITH INCREASED EFFORTS BY OTHER COUNTRIES, SHOULD RESULT IN THE MOVEMENT OF NUMBERS OF BOAT CASE REFUGEES NOW IN JAPAN TO PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT ELSEWHERE OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS. CHRISTOPHER

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